



PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : CATE, Stephen, et al.
SERIAL NO. : 09/674,399
FILED : November 26, 2002
TITLE : METHOD AND MEANS FOR FILLING
NATURAL CASING SAUSAGES
Group/A.U. : 3643
Examiner : n/k
Conf. No. : 8426
Docket No. : P03958US1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.97(e)

Commissioner of Patents for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attached are Forms PT0/SB/08A and 08B (formerly PTO-1449) listing the relevant art known to Applicant herein. A copy of the listed reference is enclosed. We are also enclosing Claim 1 of EP 0 568 372 A2 which corresponds to claim 1 of the Japanese reference, and a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,480,346. Claim 9 of the Japanese reference corresponds to claim 7 of the '346 patent; and claim 19 corresponds to claim 13 of the '346 patent.

Applicant submits that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

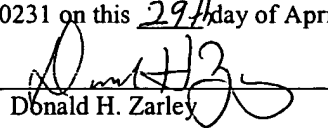
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed documents were sent by First Class Mail with proper postage affixed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 29th day of April, 2003.

05/06/2003 NHDHAAH1 00000028 09674399

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Donald H. Zarley

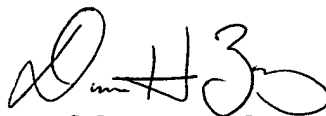
Applicant submits herewith the patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. §197(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

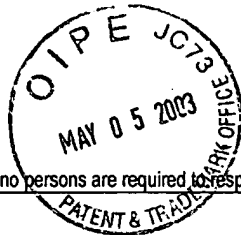
Applicant also encloses herewith the fee set forth in C.F.R. § 1.17(p). However, consider this a request for any to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098 which may have been inadvertently omitted by Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/O8A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	09/674,399
				Filing Date	November 26, 2002
				First Named Inventor	CATE, Stephen, et al.
				Art Unit	3643
				Examiner Name	N/K
Sheet	1	OF	1	Attorney Docket Number	P03953US1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.(1)	Document Number Number- Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5,480,346	1/2/1996	KASAI, ET AL.	
	2				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.(1)	Foreign Patent Document Country Code(3)-Number(4) -Kind Code(5) (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear.	T(6)
	1	EP 0 568 372 A2			FOR Information Purposes - see IDS letter	
	2	JP 6-7073	5/1993	N/K		
	3					
	4					
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	7					
	8					
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(1) Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). (2) See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. (3) Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3.) (4) For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. (5) Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. (6) Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.